

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/804,034

Examiner

Cindy Nguyen

Applicant(s)

JOHNSTON ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-6,9-11 and 17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is in response to amendment filed 08/18/05.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 3-6, 9-11 and 17 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record failed to disclose: a process, a device and a computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for automatically updating data elements in a form document being used by a first software application the process comprising: Wherein the monitoring of the common database and the updating of the data elements in the form document comprise a program segment of the first software application or a software process implemented as a thread executing in a multi-tasking operating system environment, Wherein the program segment or software process implemented as a thread (a) periodically checks the common database for available updates to the accessed data elements; (b) retrieves new records from the common database in response to an availability of updates, the new records from the common database in response to an availability of updates, the new records corresponding to the accessed data elements that have changed, and (C) processes the new records corresponding to the changed data elements as an array of new records for updating the accessed data elements in the form

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document while the form documents is being used by the first software application and the first user,

Further wherein processing the array of new records includes adding new records to the array of new records or deleting new records from the array of new records in response to one or more comparisons against old records of the form document the old records corresponding to records existing as of a last time the accessed data elements of the form document where updated or as of a last time the accessed data elements of the form document were updated or as of a time the form document was opened, the adding or detecting to the array of new records further being in accordance with the rules corresponding with the rules corresponding to the detected changed, wherein the rules are based upon (I) a characteristic of the change to the accessed data elements by the second software application, wherein the characteristic of the change comprise the accessed

data elements having been electronically signed by the second user in which the electronically signed data elements require a password to edit the corresponding data elements. and

(II) a characteristic of the accessed data elements used by the first software application wherein the characteristic of the change data elements comprise

(i) a change to a field of the accessed data elements while the form document has remained open by the first software application;

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(ii) fields of the accessed data elements having been updated from the common database while the form document has remained open by the first software application

(iii) fields of the accessed data elements that have not change since the form document was opened by the first software application; and

(iv) the accessed data elements having been electronically signed by the first user in which the electronically signed data elements require a password to edit the corresponding data elements. As recited in claims 3, 5 and 17.

Claims 4-6, 9-11 depended on claims 3 and 5 above respectively. Therefore, they are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Cindy Nguyen

November 22, 2005

  
**FRANTZ COBY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**